

Doctors' Day 2018

Speech from Dr Steven Chow, President FPMPAM

13.10.2018

Salutations

On behalf of the Council and members of the Federation, it is my greatest pleasure to congratulate the Organising Committee of Drs' Day 2018 for a most exciting and successful event.

When the challenge was first thrown to Dr. Tajudin, President PMPS Kedah/Perlis, he had no hesitancy in accepting.

Today, he and his team Kedah have proven that in Kedah, you can ask for and expect the best like in everything else. The theme "Kesihatan Untuk Rakyat" is apt and precise and speaks well for the medical leadership of Kedah and Perlis.

Over the years, the Federation have had great support from the Kedah/Perlis team in the work of the Federation in our journey from Padang Besar, up north all the way across the sea to Sabah and Sarawak.

Syabas to Team Kedah/Perlis. Syabas Dr Tajudin, Dr Annuar, Dr Umasundari, Dr Siti Faridah, Dr Tan Poh Teng and the rest of the team.

This 5th Federation Drs' Day in Malaysia is special for two important reasons.

Firstly, it coincides with the year of historical change in socio-political maturation our nation. We as doctors working on the ground and could feel this change coming.

Secondly, closer to our hearts, at this pivotal moment, the future of the nation is in the hands not one, but two doctors. Nothing is more comfortable than having your doctor's finger on your pulse when you are sick, unwell and not sure what's wrong with yourself.

We have just celebrated our 55th Malaysia Day. Teachers have Teachers' Day, Nurses have Nurses' Day, our police have Police Day and so on and so forth. There is really no compelling reason why after all these decades serving the rakyat we do not have a Doctor's Day in Malaysia.

Since 2014, the Federation have been celebrating our Doctors' Day on 10.10 to signify our commitment to provide the best of our services to our patients.

In India the National Doctors' Day is celebrated on July 1 all across India to honour the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.

We now have a doctor as the Prime Minister of Malaysia a second time around and Deputy PM who is also a doctor and that is more than enough reason for the Government to declare a national Doctor's Day for all doctors, both in private and the public sectors, in keeping with our aim to "unite doctors for better patient care".

The day, 10:10 will always be special to us as we individually and collectively strive to achieve perfection in what we must do as doctors. The Federation have given the pledge that we will continue to offer our services to the best of our ability and capacity to communities that have fallen through the social safety net, no matter how remote they may be.

In this respect we look forward to working with other governmental and non-governmental agencies as we focus our medical outreach programs to help the indigenous people in our jungles to ensure that no one is left behind as we strive to be a developed nation by 2015.

We hope our new government will see it fit to nurture and facilitate our existing private GP system providing for accessible, affordable and personalised medical care for 40% of the outpatient population in the urban and semi-urban areas.

Our GP care is one of the most cost-effective system of medical care for the acute and walking-sick patients. Our GPs are ready to accept outsourcing of the governments outpatient care to the private sector as this is the best way forward to relieve the perennial problem of congestion in the government hospitals. It will then allow the government hospitals to focus on preventive care, secondary and tertiary care.

We hope our YB Deputy Minister of Health and many YBs and VIPs with us tonight will appreciate the importance of nurturing and strengthening our unique healthcare system and stop the insidious commercialisation of healthcare which is milking the money that the rakyat have put aside for their care when they are sick.

Once again, a big thank you, to the Exco and Members of the Kedah/Perlis PMPS and the Organising Committee for hosting Drs' Day 2018. The enthusiasm and positive vibes that you have generate will be felt by all our doctors and patients, not only here in Kedah but throughout Malaysia.

Thank you and have a wonderful evening and a year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steven Chow', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Steven Chow

President

FPMPAM